

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release
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I-985 SOUTH SHIFT TUESDAY AND NEW RAMP FROM SR 13 OPENING THURSDAY - WORK NEARLY COMPLETED, WEATHER PERMITTING

WHEN: Tuesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 22

WHERE: I-985 south from north of State Route (SR) 13/Atlanta Highway to south of SR 53/Mundy Mill Road

WHAT: Crews are planning to shift I-985 south traffic back to its original location Tuesday, October 20 if weather permits. A lane closure will be installed from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday for crews to shift traffic.

“By your commute home Tuesday, the interstate will be shifted back to its original location southbound. Once traffic shifts back to its permanent location, you will notice a much smoother ride. The outside lane of I-985 south right now is utilizing an area that will become the shoulder of the roadway. These changes will continue to improve traffic flow through the area,” explained DOT District Engineer Russell McMurry.

December 13, 2007, traffic was shifted west into the newly constructed collector distributor lanes to allow for widening of the I-985 south bridge over SR 53.

Crews must restripe the collector distributor lanes. The outside lane on the southbound collector distributor lanes will be closed Tuesday, 21 through Thursday, 23 from 9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for restriping work. Crews will also be removing the old striping and restriping the ramps on I-985 south at SR 13 and SR 53.

“Next week crews will be working everyday on I-985 south from 9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to get the southbound lanes into their final configuration. Please note that we will only have one lane of traffic on the collector distributor lanes in the final configuration. Two lanes are there now only because they are carrying interstate traffic,” said McMurry.

The new entrance ramp from SR 13/Atlanta Highway to I-985 south will open for use Thursday, October 22 mid-morning, if weather permits. After the new ramp is open, crews will open the second left turn lane from SR 53/Mundy Mill Road to the interstate southbound.

Cable barrier installation in the median is almost completed. The southbound section of cable barrier only needs the cable to be tensioned and reflectors to be installed. The northbound section of cable barrier concrete pad has all been poured and is curing. Crews still have to install posts, string and tension the cable and install the reflectors.

Median work and punch list items will continue throughout the fall. Intermittent lane closures will be required to complete that work.

“As we complete this project, I must congratulate the men and women of Georgia DOT and our project contractor E.R. Snell Contracting. Their hard work, professionalism and attention to detail has brought this \$73 million project in ahead of schedule. The completion date is December 31, 2009. This project has improved travel in southern Hall County and the entire region. We appreciate your patience and support through this work. I believe you can already see the improvements we’ve made in the area,” concluded McMurtry.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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